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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/719,382	11/20/2003	Keiji Kuroda	4598	2554
21553	7590	07/25/2005	EXAMINER	
FASSE PATENT ATTORNEYS, P.A. P.O. BOX 726 HAMPDEN, ME 04444-0726			FIGUEROA, FELIX O	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2833	

DATE MAILED: 07/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/719,382	Applicant(s) KURODA ET AL.	
	Examiner Felix O. Figueroa	Art Unit 2833	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 May 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4,8 and 12-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4,8 and 12-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 2, 13, 18, 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Igarashi (US 6,565,389) in view of Pickles (US 6,663,407).

Igarashi discloses a combination including a receptacle connector and a plug connector substantially as claimed. Igarashi discloses substantially the claimed invention except for the plug width and depth fitting faces and the pair of latch arms.

Pickles teaches a receptacle connector body (1) including a pair of latch arms (16) extending outward in the depth direction from two locations that are spaced from each other in the width direction on the receptacle connector body and wherein the latch arms are able to undergo elastic deformation in the width direction; and each latch arm being provided with a retaining part (164) projecting inward in the width direction, and each said retaining part respectively including a guiding part (162) that generates a component force acting outward in the width direction from a pressing force acting on the guiding part toward the counterpart member in the thickness direction, a receptacle width fitting face facing inward in the width direction and adapted to cooperate with a mating member width fitting face of the plug connector, and a receptacle depth fitting face facing inward in the depth direction and adapted to cooperate with the mating

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member depth fitting face of the plug connector in order to provide a secure mechanical connection between the receptacle and the mating member. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the combination of Igarashi with a pair of latch arms and cooperating fitting faces, as taught by Pickles, to provide a secure mechanical connection between the receptacle and the mating member.

Claims 4, 8, 12, 15, 16 and 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Igarashi and Pickles, and further in view of Wu (US 6,565,383).

Igarashi, as modified ^{by} Pickles, discloses substantially the claimed invention ~~except for~~ except for the latch being metal and integral with the metallic cover. Wu teaches a receptacle (10) including a metallic cover (16) and latch arms integral with the metallic cover, thus simplifying the molding process of the receptacle and providing wearing resistant latch arms. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the latch arms integrally with the metallic cover, as taught by Wu, to simplify the molding process of the receptacle and provide wearing resistant latch arms.

Claims 14 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Igarashi and Pickles, and further in view of Kajinuma (US 6,361,358).

Igarashi, as modified ^{by} Pickles, discloses substantially the claimed invention ~~except for~~ except for the concaved parts being at corners of the plug connector. Kajinuma teaches a plug connector having the concave parts (between 164,156) at corners of the plug connector in order to provide a small profile plug connector and

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maximize space usage. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to a plug connector of Igarashi having the concave parts at corners of the plug connector, as taught by Kajinuma, to provide a small profile plug connector and maximize space usage.

Claims 17 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Igarashi, Pickles and Wu, and further in view of Kajinuma.

Igarashi, as modified ^{by} Pickles, discloses substantially the claimed invention ~~except for~~ except for the concaved parts being at corners of the plug connector.

Kajinuma teaches a plug connector having the concave parts (between 164,156) at corners of the plug connector in order to provide a small profile plug connector and maximize space usage. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to a plug connector of Igarashi having the concave parts at corners of the plug connector, as taught by Kajinuma, to provide a small profile plug connector and maximize space usage.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion


Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Felix O. Figueroa whose telephone number is (571) 272-2003. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri., 10:00am-6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (571) 272-2800 Ext. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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THO D. TA
PRIMARY EXAMINER